

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-14 are allowed over the prior art.
2. This action is in reply to the applicant's correspondence on 06/19/08.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable claimed subject matter.
4. As per claims 1 and 8, generally, the prior art of record, United States Patent No. 7,127,524 to Renda et al. and United States Patent No. 6,516,416 to Gregg et al., fails to teach alone, or in combination, other than via hindsight, at the time of the invention, the features as discussed and remarked upon in the response of 06/19/08.
5. Nowhere in the prior art is found, collectively, the *italicized* claim elements (i.e., *"means for controlling operation of the document processing device to a subset of available document processing operations in accordance with the stored permission matrix such that the document processing operation is terminated when not permitted by the stored permission matrix"*), at the time of the invention; serving to patentably distinguish the invention from said prior art;

"1. A system for role-based control of a document processing device comprising:

means for receiving an electronic document into a document processing device via an associated network, the document processing device including means for outputting a tangible rendering of electronic documents;

means for generating a scan file corresponding to a scan of a tangible document by the document processing device;

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means for receiving, via the associated network, document processing instruction data corresponding to at least one user-selected document processing operation corresponding to at least one of the received electronic document and a received tangible document;

means for acquiring, via the associated network, user data representative of an identity of a user of a document processing device, which user data is associated with the received electronic document;

means for prompting the user for login data via an interface associated with the document processing device;

means for receiving login data from the user via the interface;

means for receiving device access data representative of device access privileges associated with each of a plurality of users;

comparison means for comparing user data and login data with the device access data;

means for associating login data with at least one preselected user role in accordance with an output of the comparison means;

means for retrieving a permission matrix template specifying allowable usage options of the data processing device associated with each of the plurality of user roles;

means for generating permission matrix data in accordance with the at least one preselected user role and retrieved permission matrix template, the permission matrix data including data representative of allowable usage options of the document processing device from a plurality thereof by a user associated with the user data;

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means for communicating the permission matrix data to the document processing device to allow for control thereof;

means for storing the permission matrix on a data storage associated with a controller of the document processing device;

means for controlling operation of the document processing device to a subset of available document processing operations in accordance with the stored permission matrix such that the document processing operation is terminated when not permitted by the stored permission matrix."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEREMIAH AVERY whose telephone number is (571)272-8627. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:30am-5pm.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeremiah Avery/
Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/Christopher A. Revak/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431